Received ~~Dec~~ Dec 7. 1840
Answered Febr. 16th 1841

Washington (N. Carolina) Nov: 9. 1840

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of addressing you, on the supposition that, being a Botanist, you will be disposed to make an exchange of specimens. If you are desirous of obtaining specimens of plants from the Atlantic States, particularly the Southern, I shall be happy to supply you with such as I have, in exchange for those from your section of country.

You can make out a list of desiderata from Elliott's Sketch, & from Torr: & Gray's N. A. Fl. (as far as published) as well as from Torrey's Monograph of N. A. Cyperaceæ.

An exchange can be effected through Prof: C. W. Short, Louisville, Kentucky, with whom I am in correspondence.

I shall be able to send a small package as soon as I learn your wishes. I can send a larger one next year, being at present out of the reach of my principal collection.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis

1840 M. A. Curtis
Nov. 9
Dec 7 Washington
Febr. 14 1841 NC.

Recd March 23d
Ans. Feb. 5th 1842

Washington, N.C. March 4th 1841.

Dr Geo: Engelmann,

Dear Sir,

Your letter of Feb: 13th reached me on the 2d inst. and afforded me much pleasure. I had began to fear that my proposal was not acceptable, or that my letter had miscarried. I am happy to find my fear not realized. — I feel bound to decline your offer of European plants, as I have before done with a similar offer of Sir Wm. Hooker. Botany is only recreation to me, and I am afraid to open a larger play ground than is embraced by N. America. I have hardly time to occupy that, & I therefore confine my most careful attention only to plants of this State. The comparison of foreign plants with ours I must leave to those who have more time. You will see and appreciate the ground of my action, when I inform you that I am a Clergyman, & not an "*Esq*". I have no leisure to become a *general* Botanist.

In the course of the ensuing Summer or Autumn I will send you a parcel of plants. I am uncertain as to time, because I have not my plants with me, and cannot tell at present when I shall visit them. If you can suggest a better agency than the one I mentioned, I will use it. I knew of none other than through Prof: Short. Perhaps your friends, Mssrs Carstens & Schutze, (I am in doubt if I have these names right,) have an Agent in N. Orleans, who would take care of the box. If so, I can send it that way, & doubtless it would the most expeditious route. My Agent in Phila will keep the box in hand six months as likely as any way.

Very respectfully yours &c
M. A. Curtis.

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MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Received March 23d 1841

WASHINGTON N.C.
MAR
7

25

Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Missouri.

1841 M. A. Curtis
March 4th Washington
" 23d NC
Feb. 5th 1842

List of Plants desired from Dr. G. Engelmann
by M. A. Curtis.

From the N. A. Flora of Torrey & Gray. Vol. I.

Anemone, all but 6, 9. 10.
Arenaria, 10, 11. | Ammannia, 1.
Abutilon, 2, 3.
Astragalus, all but 18, 31, 36.
Acacia. | Amorpha, 4, 5, 6, 7.
Baptisia, 6, 7, 9.
Clematis, all but 1, 6, 12.
Capparidaceae. all.
Ceanothus, all but 1, 2.
Cerasus 1. | Crataegus 12, 16.
Cynosciadium. | Cornus 2.
Delphinium 6, 8. | Desmodium 15, 16.
Draba, all but 18, 30, 32.
Dalea, all but 5. | Desmanthus.
Darlingtonia.
Erysimum, all but 1.
Elatine. | Eryngium 1, 2, 3.
Glycirrhiza. | Gaura, all but 1.
Helianthemum 2. | Homalobus.
Hypericum 14. 17. | Helosciadium.
Hibiscus, all but 1, 5, 9.
Ionidium. | Indigofera 2.
Jussiaea, all but 5.
Krameria. | Kallstræmia.
Leavenworthia 1. | Linum 1.
Lathyrus. | Lythrum 2.
Ludwigia 6, 9. | Leptocaulis.
Myosurus. | Menispermum 2.
Malva 9, 10. | Mimosa.
Oenothera, all but 1, 7, 14, 15, 16, 17.
Oxytropis.

Polygala, 5, 10, 14, 15. | Portulacca 2.
Paronychia, all but 6.
Phaseolus 5. | Phaca.
Psoralea, all but 8, 18, 20.
Petalostemon, all but 1, 9. 13.
Potentilla, all but 1, 16, 26, 30, 31, 32.
Ranunculus, all but 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, 18, 27, 28, 31, 32, 36, 39, 40, 41.
Rhynchosia 4.
Streptanthus. | Stanleya.
Selenia. | Stellaria 5, 6.
Sida, all but 1, 2. | Sesbania.
Sophora. | Sium 2.
Saxifraga, all but 24, 27. 29. 30, 31.
Talinum 2. | Tilia 2, 3.
Tephrosia 2. | Thermopsis.
Trifolium, all but 4, 6, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20.
Vesicaria.
Viola 2, 20.
Vitis 2, 3, 4 (bis.)
Vicia, all but 11, 12, 14.

N.B. — When the Generic or Ordinal name only is recorded, it is intended that all the species of the Genus or Order are desired.

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

From Torrey's Monograph of the Cyperaceae
in Annals of the N. York Lyceum. Vol: III.

Cyperus 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 31, 33. — Chaetocyperus.
Carex 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 67, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, 92, 93, 96, 98, 99, 102, 114, 115, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 130, 136, 137, 140, 141, 142, 145, 146, 147, 151, 152, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 164.
Eleocharis 1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 17. Eriophorum 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10. Elytrospermum.
Isolepis 2, 3, 6. Hypoporum 1, 3. Kyllingia 2. Psilocarya.
Rhynchospora 2, 5, 10, 13, 16, 17, 20, 25. Scirpus 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13. Scleria 3, 6.
And any of the new species in the Supplement.

Besides the species designated in these lists, I shall be glad to get particularly the rarer species of the Orders Compositae (especially in the large Genera), Gramineae, Labiatae, Amentaceae, & Orchideae, & Filices.

As I have no specimens of plants from beyond the Miſsiſsippi, & none from beyond the Allegany, (except from Kentucky) every plant peculiar to your section cannot fail to be highly acceptable. If you have made exchanges with Prof. Short, or have his Catalogue of Kentucky plants, you will be able to determine very nearly what would be new to me. There are but few desiderata in his Catalogue, as he has liberally supplied me with most of the species enumerated in it.
Every new discovery will of course be highly desirable.

Rec.d April 19th
Ans. April 25th

Hillsborough, N.C. April 1st.
1842.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of Feb: 5th. reached me only yesterday. It was long on the way in consequence of your having directed it to Washington, instead of Hillsborough my now residence.

I now hasten to reply, though I fear it will be too late for the object. I have enclosed two specimens of Cuscuta in a No. of the "Transylvanian, or Lexington Literary Journal". They are all I have. The specimen at page 33~~8~~5 was collected at Wilmington, N.Car:, growing upon a Polygonum, which is either P. punctatum or P. mite, probably the former, as the stipules do not appear to be hairy.

The specimen at page 34~~5th~~7. was collected near Boston Mass:; & is on a fragment of some shrub which I do not recognize. – These two specimens, judging from a hasty look, appear to be alike.

I had among my plants at one time a specimen which I cannot now find, which was apparently different from these. The stems very slender & filiform, the fascicles of flowers smaller & more distant, & growing upon Decodon verticillatum. I am sorry that it is mislaid. Perhaps I may find it hereafter, when I will send you a fragment. I shall take pleasure in examining into this Genus more carefully this season, & will collect for you. You will certainly astound American Botanists by your 7 species of Cuscuta, as I doubt if any one has ever before suspected the existence of more than two. I shall look with much interest for your paper upon the subject, & hope, if you order spare copies, that you will have one sent to me. I have no doubt that the Genus will be thoroughly examined the coming year all over the country, as soon as your discoveries are made known.

I shall be impatient for your parcel of plants until I receive them, hoping to find among them many new acquisitions to my Herb: You do not acknowledge the receipt of the parcel from me, & I presume, therefore, that it has not reached you. I sent it via Philadelphia (at which place I heard of its arrival several months since), & Louisville (care of Prof. Short.) — This is a bad route; & I shall hereafter send to N. Orleans.

You ask if I should like Texan plants. I should be highly delighted to receive them, and hope that, if you have any to spare, you will let me have a share of them. I have but two or three species from that country.

I have received a small parcel from Buckley, & expect more this season. He is to spend the ensuing summer in the mountains of this State.

I hope I shall be able to collect another parcel for you this season, but as botany is only a recreation with me, it is quite uncertain what I can do.

No. 6. of the N.A. Flora is published, & I suppose you will get a copy by the time this reaches you.

Very respectfully yours

M A Curtis.

1842 April 1st
" 19th
" 25th

M.A. Curtis
Hillsborough
NC.

HILLSBORO N.C.
APR
3

25

Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Missouri

Recd March 2d
Ans. Aug. 4th
Ag 25th

Hillsborough Feb: 10th 1843.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 23d ult: is received. I was glad to hear from you, & to learn that you have another parcel of plants in preparation for me. I have been for a couple of weeks employing my leisure time in preparing a few packets for my friends, in which you are to partake. I am sometimes in doubt what to send you, but I am the leſs perplexed by such doubts, inasmuch as I presume most any American plant can find a market in Europe, where I suppose you send many plants. Most of my rarer plants, I regret to say, have been for some time exhausted. Of the Asters which you specify, I have never seen the carolinianus or virgatus. Of A. gracilentus, there is but a single specimen extant, which happily graces my Herbarium. Of A. surculosus I have not a specimen even in my Herbarium. A. paludosus I sent you in a former package. Of A. Curtisii & squarrosus I have no spare specimens. Of A. Elliottii I can send you a bare fragment, the last which remains. None of the preceding are any where in my reach. Of A. grandiflorus I can send several specimens, as it grows all around me.

I hope next May to visit our low country, & in

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MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

another year, to visit our Mountains. Should I fulfil these intentions, I shall be able to supply you with some rarities that I cannot now supply. I can send you two or three specimens of Carex Fraseri, which is a very interesting rarity. In the course of a short time I shall be ready to forward your packet, via New Orleans.

Of the Cuscutae last sent, I cannot give any positive aſsurance that they are not both from the same locality, but I think not. I have forgotten their history, but I suppose that I gave you localities derived from labels attached to them. Indeed I must have done that. The only doubt is, whether those labels may not have been at some time misapplied. Of this I have no *certainty*.

Your Monograph was received, for which I am much obliged to you. I have not however made any study of that Genus yet, but shall probably look at it the coming season.

I am much gratified with your offer of Texan plants, & a share of your Summer's collection. Those which you specify (Aster turbinellus, heterogenus, phyllolepis &c.) make me eager to get hold of the parcel, for which I shall be impatient till its arrival. Send it to *Turner* & *Hughes*, *New York*.

Can you send me Solidago speciosa, var: rigidiuscula, *T.&Gr.* S. Drummondii, amplexicaulis, Radula, incana, & Miſsouriensis, all of which are accredited to your section except incana, & none of which do I poſseſs. I should be extremely pleased to get any of them. I shall be happy to recieve all rarities in Compositae & Cyperaceae, from west of the Miſsiſsippi & from Texas.

Another No. of the N.A. Flora is in preſs, I believe. I am anxious for the completion of the work. But I suppose it will be more perfect by delay.

very respectfully

M. A. Curtis

1843
Febr 10 2/3
March 2
Aug 4th & 25th

M. A. Curtis
Hillsborough
NC

Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Missouri.

HILLSBORO N.C.
FEB
12

25

Recd Sept 5th
Ans April 14 1844

Hillsborough, N. C. Aug: 24th 1843

Dear Sir

Yours of the 3d inst: was received this morning. I was glad to hear from you, & to learn that my parcel of plants has reached you safely, as also that it has furnished you some new plants. I had begun to be somewhat concerned that this package had miscarried, it having been so long en route. I was also afraid that the parcel from you had been lost, supposing from your former letter that it was long since forwarded. I am much relieved in this particular, by finding that it has been delayed only. But I shall look for it with great eagerness, & especially for the Texan plants which I hope to receive from you at some future day.

I have been thinking of writing to you for some time in order to communicate a specimen of Cuscuta pentagona, which I found here in June, growing on Trifolium pratense. The C. vulgivaga, which is the only other species I find here, is just now beginning to bloom. The former seems to be your var: B. microcalyx, at least the calyx is not perceptibly angled. Possibly I am mistaken in the species. I send it with this letter.

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BOTANICAL
GARDEN

I am glad to find that you are turning your attention to some of our confused Genera, which very much need elucidation. Your evident skill in discrimination will do much service in clearing up the difficulties which have long beset those Genera. I shall be happy to furnish you any spare specimens I may have in the three Genera you mention, sc. Equisetum, Euphorbia, & Potamogeton, but I doubt if I have more than two or three duplicates in all of them. – The species of Equisetum from Newbern, N.C. I presume is the same which I have seen from two or three other localities in the State, & which is the only species I have found in N.C. – It is a long time since I examined it, but I remember very well that I could not satisfy myself about it. Of Euphorbia I believe I have no species that are not well defined. Of Potamogeton I have hardly one that is, though most of them are common.

Of the specimens of C. Saururi which I sent you, it is *poſsible* that they are from one locality, but I cannot account for the label, if it be so.

The Solidago speciosa which I sent you is a var: of that species, fide Torr: & Gray! At the same time, I have always deemed it a distinct species. It is S. erecta, Ell. The true S. speciosa of Nuttall I have from the Western & Eastern States, which is a handsome plant; while the above variety is ugly as S. bicolor. It aſsumes numerous forms, & I suppose that Gray found some which made it difficult to distinguish from S. speciosa.

Your "additions to Cuscutineae" was received, for which I give you thanks. I shall keep my eye upon the Cuscutae during the season, but as yet I have only noticed the two before mentioned. In May, while in our low country, I noticed a species which had then spread diffusely over the graſs in old fields in patches, & which probably flowered in *June*. I regretted very much that it was not in flower. I suspect, from its early appearance, that it is C. pentagona.

I collected a *few* good plants in the low country last Spring, yet not enough to make a package for you. I shall hardly be able to send you another set till next season, I fear.

Is there any way by which I can get *some* of the plants from the Collectors Geyer, Lindheimer, &c. *without money*? Money is an article that I am able to use only for my bread & meat,—but if I can get some of their plants by paying *in kind*, I should very much like to do it.

With much respect,

Yours &c.

M. A. Curtis

P.S. In a single flower of C. pentagona I noticed 3 styles!

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

1843
August 24
Sept 5
April 14th 1844

M. A. Curtis
Hillsborough
NC

HILLSBORO N.C.
AUG
25

Dr. Geo. Engelmann
St. Louis
Missouri.

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Rec^d April 11th
Ans April 14th

Hillsborough, N. Car: March 29th 1844

1844 March 29th
April 11th
14th
M. A. Curtis
Hillsborough
N.C.

My dear Sir,

A parcel of plants was received from you two or three days since, which I had long looked for, & which I had begun to fear was lost. Accept my thanks for these plants, & particularly for duplicates of several Asters which were new to me. About 30 species in your parcel are new additions to my stock, & are truly *welcome*.

There is a species of Solidago among them which, from a short examination, I should pronounce undescribed. It is the one labelled S. *squarrosa*, & then corrected to S. *petiolaris*. I am very familiar with these two species, especially the latter, & without having made a critical comparison, I should say it was neither one nor the other. I will send you S. *petiolaris* (Torr: & Gray!) in my next fasciculus; & will spare you a specimen of S. *squarrosa* from my Herbarium if you do not possess the species. Gray has endeavored to find a partial character for his section Chrysastrum in the somewhat *clavellate* pappus of the two species included in it, but S. petiolaris has that character quite as much as S. squarrosa. I have not yet examined your plant upon that point, having merely counted the florets in a head, which is much fewer flowered than S. petiolaris. At first sight your plant resembles S. pulverulenta more than any species I am acquainted with. I shall look more closely at the thing, when I get a little leisure.

By the last mail I received your paper on Equisetaceae &c. which I had long since had the pleasure of perusing by the favor of Prof: Gray. I was much gratified by the perusal.

Some months ago I sent you a specimen of Cuscuta pentagona, β microcalyx?, which I hope you received. It is common here. If you did not receive the specimen I will send you more this season, if you wish it. I was very glad of the specimens in your parcel. I now have all your species, except C. verrucosa, hispidula, & neuropetala.

Can you furnish me with Solidago Miſsouriensis, Helianthus rigidus & laetiflorus? - Also Echinacea angustifolia? I believe I have before promised to send you a list of Desiderata. I shall try to accomplish it this Spring, as also to send you some plants. I can furnish a few at least that will doubtleſs be very acceptable. Among them will be Thermopsis mollis, mihi (Baptisia mollis, Mich.)

I shall be glad to hear from you soon

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis

P.S. Your "Desmodium viridiflorum (Beck)" appears to me to be D. Dillenii, (Darl).

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Rec^d July 13th
Ans Jan 22 1845

Hillsborough, N. C. July 1st. /44

Dear Sir,

Your letter of Ap: 17th was rec^d in due time. I was much indisposed during the last Spring, & have let Botany take care of itself. I have been in the fields but once this year until to day, & only for a short distance, & after particular species. To day I only went out to collect Cuscuta pentagona for you, which I find abundant, & of which I shall be pleased to send you 30 or 40 specimens, as you desire. I took notice of those points to which you desired me to give attention. 1st I find that the calyx is perceptibly angled, as described in your monograph, but mostly, I think, in the young flowers. — 2nd. It runs over everything indiscriminately. I shall send you specimens on Aster, Trifolium, Ambrosia, Lepidium, Plantago lanceolata, Passiflora, Erigeron (2 species) Polygonum, Sonchus, & Bignonia! This species might be called polygama, by a new application of the term. — Besides this species I have observed only ~~[illegible]~~ Cusc: vulgivaga here.

If you want Cuscutae from Georgia & Florida, you should address Dr. A. W. Chapman, Quincy, Florida. I have no specimens from the south.

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BOTANICAL
GARDEN

I am much interested to hear of the two species found in our Mountains by Gray & Sullivant, & am exceedingly anxious to get specimens. I shall ask Gray for some, when I go home (i.e. to Boston) next month.

Equisetum lævigatum is nowhere within my reach. Should I perchance fall in with it at any time, I shall be glad to remember your request.

Of the Charae I know absolutely nothing. I have found but a single species in this State, which is C. nidifica, Schweinitz, in Herb: Ell! [vid: Elliott's Sketch. II. p.—] If you are studying the Genus with reference to publication, I will loan you my specimen. My duplicates were long ago distributed.

Of Euphorbia I can send only one species from this locality, E. corollata. E. Lathyrus, & marginata are naturalized in this State. E. marginata grows extensively in sight of my house in waste grounds. But you will hardly want these. I may perhaps be able to send you a few forms of E. ipecacuanha. This is the most variable thing I know of, as two specimens can hardly be found alike, unleſs I misunderstand the plant. Its root is remarkable, & the end of one I could never find. It grows many feet without diminution of size. It is a native of our "low country".

When you give me a list of Desiderata, the longer you make it the better, as I shall thereby have the better chance of supplying you. If the list is short, I may not have enough to make out a parcel. So do not fear to add on.

I find, on reference to my list of emissions, that I sent you Solidago petiolaris in my last parcel. It is the true plant of N. A. Flora! The variety I have never seen, but your plant seems to me too unlike the species to belong to it.

I shall be very glad to get any of your surplus plants from Texas. When I see your list of Lindheimer's plants, I will designate what are desirable.

I contemplate visiting the North early next month, to be absent until about the 20th of October. Should you be any where in the Atlantic States during that period, I should be very happy to meet with you. I expect to see a good deal of Prof: Gra as I shall be in Boston about a month. If I think of it, I will look over your Solidago pet: β squarros: with him.

The delay in the transmission of your last package was probably owing to the negligence of my agents in N. York. But I do not know how to do better.

I commenced long ago to make up a package for you, but it still remains incomplete. I fear that I shall not be able to make up as large a one as heretofore. I shall however endeavor to take one with me to New York, be it small or large, in which I hope you will find some things that will be worth the expense of freight &c.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

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P.S. In looking for my Charae, I find they are misplaced somehow, & I cannot now refer to them. I have an impression that the C. nidifica is identical with a specimen from the north, but I cannot now verify it. What is the nature of the fructification? Is it satisfactorily ascertained? — Since closing my letter it occurs to me that you ask about the Characeae with reference to the labors of Prof: Braun. I will compare notes with Dr. Gray on the subject. I think I sent Torrey a specimen of C. nidifica.

7

25

Dr. Geo: Engelman
St. Louis
Missouri

HILLSBORO N.C.
JUL 2

1844 M.A. Curtis
July 1st Hillsborough
" 13th N.C.
January 22d 1845

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Recd Feb 21st
Ans Octob 18

Hillsborough, No: Car: Feb: 8: 1845.

My dear Sir,

Yours of Jan: 21. has just come to hand. I am glad to learn that my last bundle of plants has reached you safely, & that you find any thing of interest therein. The package would have been delivered to Messrs. Poppe, N. York, but I left home in such confusion of mind from the many things to be attended to, that I forgot to take a memorandum of their name, & was consequently obliged to seek another channel of communication. It has proved safe thougt slow.

You are doubtless correct in referring that aquatic to Syena, but it never before occurred to me. I was prepossessed with the idea of its being cryptogamous. The Gonolobus I had myself called hirsutus. The Allium striatum & Cornus sericea I was in doubt about, & you are perhaps correct in calling the former A. mutabile & the latter C. stricta. I cannot now refer to these plants for determining them positively.

I cannot write German. The question which I put on the label is my only attempt, & I thought very likely that you would find reason to suspect as much in some blunder or other in syntax or idiom. I do not now remember what it was, & I cannot make it out from your quotation, as I am unable to read the German cheirography. All I can do is to read books, which I was very fond of some years since. At present I pay but little attention to German literature, though my shelves have a good proportion of German theology.

The Chara nidifica is not a loan but a gift. I luckily found that extra fragment to which you are welcome. Did I not send you specimens of the same or similar

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species from this locality, collected just before I left home last Summer? I intended to do so, but you make no allusion to it, & I fear I neglected it. It grows abundantly in a stream (the head waters of the Neuse.) which paſses just below my residence, where I can collect ~~a~~ half a bushel for you if you wish it. The fragment which I did send, & which was collected in the Catawba River, appeared to me to be identical with the specimen from Schweinitz in Herb: Ell! & labelled "Chara nidifica." However, I will enclose a specimen of my Hillsborough plant in a pamphlet which will accompany this letter.

In the same pamphlet I will enclose a specimen of C. vulgaris?, which I collected last August in the western part of Maſsachusetts. You will distinguish these specimens by the latter being rigid; & the former flaccid & somewhat pellucid. I shall be glad to learn your judgment on these plants.

In looking over your list of Desiderata I find some 50-60 species, which I can probably supply. There are others which I hope to obtain during the next season, & shall perhaps be able to forward an acceptable package to you next Autumn. I shall be able to accomplish this, if I visit, as I hope to do, our low country in May & our Mts in August. But your list is not as long as I desired! If it had included all desiderata from the States east of the Miſsiſsippi, it would have included many more species, I presume, which I can supply.

Whatever you can furnish me from Texas will be highly acceptable, so it does not include the common plants of our Atlantic States. I have but some half dozen species from that region. I will try hard to remunerate you for anything you can spare from the Texan collection.

Prof: Short writes to me about a tour through our Mountains next season. Should he accomplish his purpose, you will doubtleſs come in for a share of the spoils, which will be rich I presume. Our moun=

=tain plants are not yet very widely distributed, as it is difficult for collectors to preserve & transport a large quantity of specimens. I have hardly anything from that region now remaining, & am very anxious to renew my stock. If I can snatch a hurried visit there next Summer, I can do a little towards it, & you shall have a share.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis

25

Dr. Geo: Engelmann

St. Louis

Mißouri,

1845
Febr 8
r " 21
a Octob 18:

M A Curtis

Hillsboro
NC.

Recd Sept 23d —
Ans Oct [illegible]

Hillsborough N. C. Sept: 10/45

Dear Sir,

I write now & in haste in order to apprise you that I have just returned from a hasty visit to our mountains with several species of Cuscuta, of which you may like a specimen or two. There are no new species, I judge, as I think I recognize old forms only, though I have not yet made any comparison of them. Dr. Gray last year gave me fragments of what he had collected in his tour in the Alleghanies, & which he said you had called Lepidanche appressa, Cascuta compacta & oxycarpa. I have collected these three, if I am not mistaken. The first on the Yadkin River, the second on the Catawba, & the third on the Mts. where it grows east of the Blue Ridge in prodigious quantities. It is a luxuriant & beautiful species, with the flowers ivory white, & the stem pale yellow. Of this I can send you four or five specimens, if you wish. Of L. ~~com~~ adpressa only one, as when I collected it from my saddle I took it for C. compacta, & only got two or three specimens to remember the locality by. Of C. compacta I can furnish any quantity, it being abundant around me & not uncommon on streams from our low country to the mountains. I intended to have gotten 100 specimens at least of C. oxycarpa, but I was unfortunate in losing a week by sickness, & of finding the plants soaking wet when I got out, so that it was difficult to preserve any quantity. Many of my specimens have suffered badly in consequence.

I sent you last Spring in a pamphlet some of the Cuscuta comp: growing here, collected from winter vestiges. Did you get them?

Please to let me know what you desire in regard to these plants. I can send by mail, if you choose to run the risk, or will include them in a package which I shall prepare for you this Fall to send by first opportunity after hearing from you. Please to give directions for sending, that I may be as accurate as possible.

Excuse the hasty letter

Truly yours,

M. A. Curtis.

1845 M. A. Curtis
Sept 10 Hillsborough
r. " 23 NC
a. Octob 18

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Recd — Nov. 20th
Ans Jan 18.
& July 20th

Hillsborough Nov: 3d 1845

My dear Sir,

The Plantae Lindheimerianae had not come to hand when I last wrote, & I was not therefore apprised of your later views in regard to Cuscutae adpressa & compacta. I spoke of having collected the former in this State only on the strength of a specimen collected by Dr. Gray at Harper's Ferry, (big a) & which he said you had so called. He also gave me a specimen from our Mts which you had called C. compacta. It is only those two forms (of which you doubtless have specimens) of which I spoke. Their only difference appears to result from age. Between these (or rather this) & your C. adpressa (of which I have a specimen from you) I have not been disposed to recognize a specific difference. Their peculiarities you seem to have well sketched in the note in Pl. Lind. p. 18, only I doubt if the difference of color in the dried corol is uniform. I suspect that the age of the specimens as well as the mode of drying has something to do with that.

Permit me the liberty of doubting whether this plant (your compact is the C. compacta of Juss: & Choisy, notwithstanding your strong assertion. Here are my reasons. 1st. Choisy says nothing of the supernumerary sepals or bracts under ~~that~~ this species, which he could no more have overlooked in this than in C. glomerata. 2nd. He would not have quoted either C. Americana (auctt) or your C. cephalanthi under it, if there had been the "sepalis sub-novem" in his species. On the contrary he would have known if your C. cephal: had the said bracts that it would have been ranged under your Lepidanche. 3d. He would not have described the "sepala" as being "minima", nor the "capsula" as "minima", in a species which has both more than ordinarily large. 4th. He compares it in a note (DC. IX. 458.) with C. Gronovii & Americana, which your C. compac would be far from needing, being readily distinguished from either of them by characters which he does not mention. – 5th. The sepals are not "1/4 lin: longis", but a *line or more*; & the corol not "5-*dentata*", but 5-*partita* or *loba*. *I* should therefore call this plant C. Engelmannii. It is the most remarkable species I have met with for luxuriance. The specimen from which I sent you some fragments was a complete compact *rope* of flowers near an inch in diameter wound closely round a large shrub, 4–5 ft. high, & completely concealing it from bottom to top. I got it in the winter, & of course the specimens were not good, as I had to soak the plant in water, get it off in fragments, & dry them. I had intended getting you some magnificent specimens this season from this locality, but unluckily I could not find a vestige of it. I presume that the unparalleled drought is the cause of its disappearance this season. (What I take to be C. vulgivaga did not flower this year till September.) I am therefore unable to send you this plant in any quantity, unless you will accept such fragments as I sent before. I found the same *thing* last May (winter vestiges) near Fayetteville, N.C. I have but three specimens each of what I mentioned in my last letter as collected on the Yadkin & Catawba Rivers. I had no need to collect more, supposing that I could get abundance near home. I have only found t on streams. It flowers late in July into Aug: &c.

I could send several specimens of C. rostrata, – but you express no desire for them, – & probably a few more of C. pentagona, though I collected none of the latter this year.

I am glad to learn Braun's opinion of my Charae. The C. Schweinitzii I did not find in fruit this year, the stream, where it grows, being almost dried up. I have little or none on hand. I shall be glad of any Charae you can send me; also, of Cyperi that are not common at the East, particularly C. acuminatus & your new ones. — I have often thought with you in regard to C. speciosus. I do not know Torrey's plant although he received his specimen from me. More than half of those you ntion I have never seen, & of the remainder I have not a spare cimen, I believe. I have not been in the region of Cyperi or Cype=

raceae for many years, & my stock has been long exhausted.

I am sorry to report that press of other matter has prevented my getting a parcel of plants ready for you in season for this Autumn. I will try to serve you in the Spring. —— Have you heard of the destruction of John Carey's splendid Herbarium in the disastrous fire in New York? The poor man was by the bedside of a dying son at the time, who expired in the confusion & horrors of that sad night. I learn that several of our Botanists have done & are doing what they can to replace his loss, & I shall do all I can. Can you lend a helping hand to the work of charity?

Whenever you can spare me specimens of Cuscuta, of species not already sent (N. American) I shall highly prize them. I have all the species described by you, except the Texan. — I will indicate what Texan plants I d not want, from the "Pl. Lindheimerianae." This plan will be briefest. I already have the following:- all others are highly desirable.

[Nos. 7, 12, 23, 26, 32, 33, 42, 44, 47, 48, 57, 59, 65, 67, 68, 69, 71, 74, 75, 77, 82, 84, 85, 86, 89, 90, 91, 93, 100, 102, 108, 110, 112–115, 117–119, 121, 132, 138, 145–149, 152, 155, 6, 162, 4, 5, 6, 9. 170, 3, 6, 8. 180, 1. 194, 7, 9. 200, 1, 2, 6, 8, 9. 211, 215, 218, 219. 222, 7, 8, 9. 232, 4, 5, 250, 1, 2, 3, 265, 276. 292. 309. 317.] Those which I most want are 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17, 22, 29, 30, 62, 63, 64, 78, 79. 83, 96, 97, 101, 103, 104. 116, 123, 4, 5, 7, 9. 133, 5. 158. 161. 168. 183, 6, 193. 203, 4, 5, 7. 212, 213. 223. 236, 7. 248. 249. 254, 6, 7, 9. 260, 1, 2, 3, 4. 281. 298. 312, 13, 18, —— but shall be exceedingly obliged for any not mentioned in the brackets above. I should have been very glad to subscribe for Lindheimer's sets, but am unable to do it.

I shall probably enclose soon to you some fragments of Cuscuta.

With much respect

Yours

M. A. Curtis,

P.S. The Cuscutae being readily got at I have just enclosed them in a Pamphlet as follows. At page 10, specimen from the Catawba. At p. 14. from the Yadkin. At p. 22. from a tributary of the Watauga, Ashe Co. At p. 30, from the Mts of Ashe Co. At p. 34. from Hillsborough. Those at pp. 10 & 14, differ only in age, the latter being youngest. p. 22. found along fences upon Rubus, Phytolacca, Ambrosia, &c. Page 30 is on a leaf of Solidago glomerata, but grows on nume

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ceous plants [illegible] mountain-sides. Page 34. like p. 22. but oftener on Verbesina here than on any thing else. pp. 10 & 14 = C. compacta, Engelman. p. 30 = C. rostriata. pp. 22 & 34 = C. vulgivaga, I suppose. I should like your decision upon them.

Vahl's Cyp. speciosus has terete spikelets, & therefore would seem to fall under C. Michauxianus, if not a distinct species. Ell's plant seems to be similar.

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Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Missouri

HILLSBORO

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Rec: Aug 17th
Ans Jan 10th 1847

Hillsborough, N.C. July 31st 1846.

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 20th was recd yesterday. I was glad to hear again from you, & especially to learn that you had despatched another parcel of plants to me. This I shall wait for with more than usual interest, though your favors have always been highly appreciated. I did not expect you would be able to spare so many Texan species, supposing there would be only now & then a supernumerary. But the more the better. The S. Western part of the U.S. is almost terra incognita to me, & I shall welcome every representative from that region most heartily. I shall be very glad, therefore, if you will continue to remember me in the distribution of duplicates which you may obtain from that interesting district. You are now the only one west of the Alleganies, with whom I make exchanges.

It was my intention to have sent you a parcel of plants last Spring, & I perhaps led you to expect it at that time; - but a desire to add some species which you wanted (among them Cuscuta pentagona & Chara) induced me to delay until I could procure them. I now hope the parcel will be in New York next month. I have already put up some 150 species for you, nearly all them

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such as are indicated in your list of *desiderata*. You will be glad to learn that I have filled up your *whole list* of Solidago. Supposing that you, like myself, prefer a *poor* specimen to *none*, I have now & then enclosed rather indifferent ones. Most of them however are fair & good, & I hope you will find the collection on the whole acceptable.

I should like to know if our Southern plants generally would be useful to you in exchange with European Botanists. For unless I have permission to send such as you already possess, & as I have before sent, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for me to be of service to you much longer. I live in a very uninteresting botanical region — & opportunities are rare for collecting elsewhere. I shall try hard to get *one* more good parcel, at any rate. With a *general licence*, I should hope to send you *many*. It will always give me special pleasure to add anything new to your Herbarium. In a contemplated visit to our *low country* the coming autumn, I hope to collect some interesting species. I am also expecting several collections from S. Carolina. From these &c. I may be able again next year to send some new things. Be assured I shall do my best, & shall desire to continue an exchange mutually pleasing & profitable.

Have you ever paid any attention to the Musci, Hepaticae, Lichenes, or Fungi? As I have exhausted the Phaenogams about me, I have turned attention to these, & could send you some of each. But I am

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particularly desirous of Fungi, whether foreign or American; & if you have any, shall be glad to exchange for them. I can find no one in this country who has given them attention, & thus far have been confined to European correspondence. It is my present intention to make this Order the subject of more special attention; but I shall prosecute the study with much more interest & success, if I can obtain a few correspondents in this country with whom I may compare notes & specimens. But I shall not neglect the other Orders of Cryptogamiae, & intend to be able to distribute specimens from each. Let me hear from you on this subject.

I am not prepared to offer an opinion, as you request, upon the distinctness of Cuscuta vulg: & Saururi, having never examined critically any other species than those which I have myself collected within the last two or three years. It is only in the living state, that I can make any satisfactory examination of such allied species. I am inclined to think, however, that if the differences upon which you have founded the species, - i.e. if the texture of the corolla, & the absence of the pellucid cells, in C. Saururi, are uniformly accompanied with that form of corol which you ascribe to this species, then I should consider them distinct. I look upon a difference of texture when uniform, & attended with any other peculiarities, as an important characteristic. But occasional variation will cause doubt of specific difference.

very respectfully & truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

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HILLSBORO
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N.C.

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Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Mißouri.

Rec^d Dec 28th
Ans Jan 10th

Hillsborough, N. Car: Dec: 14/46.

Dear Sir,

On my late return from Wilmington, where I had spent some weeks, I had the pleasure of finding your parcel of plants arrived. They had been much longer on the way from N. York than was to have been expected – perhaps owing to the dilatoriness of agents at Petersburg Virg^a – But they were all in fine order, & gave me a rich treat: This collection is among the most interesting I ever received, & is exceedingly valuable. I feel deeply obliged to you for this favor, & shall take great pleasure in making such returns as I can from this section of country.

I lately – about the 20th October – despatched a parcel to N. York, care of Messrs: Poppe, which would have been sent some two months earlier but for want of conveyance to Petersburg. Since my return home I learn that it was not shipped at Petersburg until Nov: 23^d ! Two days after this so many vessels were lost on the American coast by the disastrous gale of the 25th, that I am somewhat uneasy about the plants. Still I have seen no notice of that vessel among the list of the lost & missing, & have hope of her safety.

I did my best, in making up this package, to follow your list of Desiderata, & I trust, out of the 170 species, you will find a good portion of them acceptable. I had intended putting up a good lot of Cuscuta compacta, & Chara Schweinitzii, but they were not sufficiently matured for suitable specimens. I sent a good number of Cusc: pentagona. I saw that Cusc: compacta was abundant in our low country along streams, & I found a fine fresh flowering specimen at Wilmington late in November. I have also lately rec^d. it from the low country of S. Car. I also found Chara Schweinitzii at Wilmington.

I was very glad to find Cusc: neuropetala in your collection. It is a fine species. I now have all your species, I believe, except one.

Have I ever proposed sending you specimens of Musci, Hepaticae, Lichenes, or Fungi? If you desire these, one or all, I can do better in making returns for your favors, than by being confined to Phanerogams. In the latter, I can hardly do much more, I fear, unleſs you allow a repetition of what has been sent before. Yet I shall try hard, for your contributions are so valuable that I am unwilling they should cease.

I have just looked over your list of Desiderata, & find that, from packages lately received, I can supply about 30 species, which were not in my poſseſsion when I made up the late parcel for you. I will lay them aside for you.

Do you know any good Mycologist in Germany or other part of Europe, whose address you can give me, & with whom I could exchange Fungi? I am working hard at these things, & desire the benefit of intercourse & interchange with some one, on whose decisions I can confidently rely.

I hope I shall erelong hear that you have rec^d the parcel of plants sent you.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. Is there not some mistake about your Prunus Chicasa from St. Louis? Leaves large, acuminate, & as well as the flowers, very unlike P. Chicasa so common here. Is it not P. Americana?

HILLSBORO N.C.
DEC 16

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Dr. Geo: Engelmann,
St. Louis
Missouri.

Recd Febr. 15th
Ans March 9th

Hillsborough, N.C. Jan: 28th 1847.

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 10th is received this day. — The parcel sent hence for you in Oct:, & which left Petersburg late in Nov:, arrived safely in New York, & was handed to the Messrs Poppe. I hope it will reach you in good time & condition.
Yesterday I finished a small parcel for you from collections received since the despatch of my last, comprising about 30 species more in your list of Desiderata. Some of them, however, are from Florida, & you are probably already supplied with specimens from Chapman. I have added a few specimens of plants before sent, of which, I suppose, you would be glad of more for exchanges. I have added specimens of Prunus Chicasa — abundant throughout our S. States in old fields, & along fences, never in bottom lands — It is a rough branching shrub 4-6 ft. high, seldom becoming a small tree. Fruit light red or yellow, & very palatable.

I am somewhat at a loss to understand the exact import of your "Herbarium vivum" — i.e. whether live specimens are wanted. If dried specimens are intended, I will next season supply the following — these being all within my reach.

Baptisia tinctoria, Cimicifuga serpentaria, Smilax Sarsaparilla ~~pseudo-china~~, Liquidambar styraciflua, & perhaps Aristolochia serpentaria. The last grows here sparingly, & I doubt, if I can fill the order for 220.

Our Smilax Sarsaparilla, I suppose, is not the S. American Sarsaparilla; but it is the plant which ~~was~~ has been much cried up & used in England for the cure of Syphilis.

I understand also that it is purchased in large quantities by the Druggists of this country; but for what purpose I do not know.

I will write to S. Carolina & enquire if the Sea Island Cotton can be got, but I am very doubtful if so expensive a product can be obtained in quantity.

What do you mean by Rhus canadense? I know no such species. If you mean Rhus radicans, I must be excused from handling that; for I have but just recovered from a severe poisoning incurred by accidental contact with it in Nov: last, in getting some Fungi.

I was a long time pestered with your species of Urtica; but I at last got, I believe, upon the track, & suspect it should be U. Whitlowii. Many years ago a Mr. Whitlow proposed a species of Urtica (a form of U. Canadensis) as a valuable substitute for hemp; but the noise of the discovery soon died away. I suspect that this solves the riddle of the U. Whitlowii, somebody or other having named the plant after him. It does not grow around me.

I should like to know from you what sort of specimens of the above short list are desired – as to size &c. Be as particular in directions as will ensure accuracy. If I undertake the task, I should like to commit no serious errors.

I engage in this matter without putting you to the obligation of any definite remuneration. Let it be on your own terms, & as will best comport with your own interest.

I shall send Musci & Hepaticae as "correctly named" as can be done in this country. All my speci~~mens~~es pass under the revision of Sullivant, who, I suppose, is fully competent to decide generally upon our species. I do not myself possess such knowledge of these two orders. The Fungi are claiming more of my attention than any other of the Cryptogams.

Jan: 30th

My letter having been kept from the last mail, I have opened it to add more words. — I have looked at the Sagittariae in my Herb:, but find only two things to abstract for your use - one from Georgia (S. lancifolia), the other from Florida (in good fruit).

I also enclose herein two specimens of Cuscuta from the lower part of this State, upon which I want your judgment. I am sorry the specimens are not very good.

I find I have put up already about 80 species for you, making over 100 specimens. Shall I send it?

"near me". I will remark, that Alisma subulata of Ell! is Sagittaria pusilla, *Nutt*! . I have seen both in Herb: Ell. — I will also add that S. radicans, *Nutt*. grows at Wilmington, but I have only a single specimen. It is a good species. If my Herb: affords spare specimens of this Genus, I will send them to you. I have some forms that have puzzled me greatly.

N. A. Botany is to be greatly indebted to your researches. What you have already done is a sufficient test of your knowledge & skill. If there be anything to fear from you, it is that you may *discriminate* *too* *nicely*, & make too many species. Yet the true limits of species are hard to ascertain, & a careless observer like myself should not perhaps venture such a remark to one whom the slightest variations can not escape.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

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You do not inform me whether Decaisne is himself acquainted with Lichenes. If he is, & you will give me his address, (at the same time informing me if the Latin language is the proper channel of communication, for I am not well enough acquainted with French to write it,) I will probably write to him.

I hope I shall be able to add a few more plants to the parcel now in preparation for you next Spring. If not, it will be better perhaps to wait until I can make it more valuable. But if you wish it, I will send what I may have (now about 50 species) sometime before next Summer.

I am glad you have taken up our Sagittariae which need a thorough elaboration. I will send what I ca get hold of, though S. sagittifolia is all that grows near me. I will remark, that Alisma subulata of Ell! is Sagittaria pusilla, Nutt! I have seen both in Herb: Ell. — I will also add that S. radicans, Nutt. grows at Wilmington, but I have only a single specimen. It is a good species. If my Herb: affords spare specimens of this Genus, I will send them to you. I have some forms that have puzzled me greatly.

N. A. Botany is to be greatly indebted to your researches. What you have already done is a sufficient test of your knowledge & skill. If there be anything to fear from you, it is that you may discriminate too nicely, & make too many species. Yet the true limits of species are hard to ascertain, & a careless observer like myself should not perhaps venture such a remark to one whom the slightest variations can not escape.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

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HILLSBORO
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Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Mißouri.

Rec: Sept 20th
Ans Oct 4th

Society Hill, S. Car: Sept: 4./47.

Frasera

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 22nd ult: is just received, & two or three points urge me to an immediate reply.

The Pinus palustris of which I spoke in my last is the P. australis. The former name of Lambert has the priority over Michaux', I believe. It is in your list of Desiderata for the German Work, & I wrote to know whether you had engaged any one else to procure it. When at Hillsborough, it was out of my reach: Now it composes the forest around me, & I can get hundreds within 500 yards of me. If you wish it, & will let me know at once, I will gather this for you. The Liquidambar will be at once collected. Only the flowers cannot be had till next April or May. I removed from N. Car. while the tree was in blossom. Hence my failure to procure them last Spring.

I know of no better or cheaper mode of getting the plants to you, than via Charleston and N. Orleans. I will bear the expense to the latter place. Please to inform me who will take charge of the Box in N. Orleans.

I am very glad to get Léveillé's address. I have been some time waiting for it, in order to write to him, having learned that he was anxious for American Fungi. These plants will henceforth be my principal study, though I shall not neglect the other Orders. They have become as attractive as the higher forms, & my collections are rapidly filling up. Almost daily something new occurs. Many undescribed species, & lately a new Genus, have turned up here.

I now wish to make a proposition to your "young friend" that you have requested to collect Fungi. I should much prefer, if you have no objection, that the Fungi of your region should not all go to Europe. I should wish that Specimens may remain here also, as representatives of what goes away. I am aiming to obtain as complete Mycologia Americana as is possible. Now will your young friend send specimens to me of whatever he sends to Europe. Two or three specimens of each species would be very desirable. I will remunerate *in kind*, or by sending him any other classes of Plants. He should always note the material upon which the species of Fungi grow.

I shall be obliged to you for the loan of Léveilli's Pamphlet. I can read French well enough, though I never attempted writing it.

— Lay aside for me all the Texan & far Western plants you can spare. They will be a rich treat. I shall lay by for you whatever I find here likely to interest you.

— That *new Baptisia* unluckily attracted attention too late for me to get any quantity of good specimens. I can however send you enough to give an idea of its distinctive characters. It unites the characters of B. alba & tinctoria. Next year I shall collect *enough*.

I can now send you Cyperus flavicomus, which grows here. I never saw it till this year. C. Gatesii, also, which is abundant in my yard. There are two or three species of Sagittaria here, of which I have gathered some for you *in fruit*. Alisma I do not find. — I notice here in abundance what, I think, must be Liatris heterophylla. I shall send you some for your opinion.

It may be November before I get my parcel ready for you, as I shall have to wait until I receive the Sea-Island Cotton, which a friend has promised to get for me.

I hope to have a line from you soon about the Pinus palustris. That will not be in suitable state for gathering for several weeks yet.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. My remark above for the guidance of your friend is not sufficiently definite. I mean that he should always record the particular species of plant on which any Fungus grows. This applies, of course, only to those which grow upon trees, sticks, herbs, leaves, &c.

The fleshy Fungi will be valueleſs, except descriptions accompany the specimens, they change form & color so much by preſsure. He should note color of the parts, shape, flesh thick or thin, stipe solid or hollow, & the color of the sporidia. These, as well as the woody Fungi, (Polyporus, Daedalea, &c.) having been dried two or three weeks, should receive a good dose of Spirits of Turpentine holding in solution Corrosive Sublimate. Without this, they will be destroyed by insects. Then they should be well dried & preſsed again.

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Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Missouri

SOCIETY HILL S.C.
23

M A Curtis

Rec.d Febr 9th
Ans. May 1st

Society Hill, S. Car: Jan: 20th/48.

Dear Sir,

I have this day learned that my Box for you has been shipped at Charleston for N. Orleans on board Barque Acadia - Crosby Master - It is directed to Messrs: Wood & Low, N. Orleans. I have paid the freight to N.O. I hope it will arrive safely to your hands, for I think there is some material that will be interesting to you.

I am sorry to say also, that there are some specimens that will disappoint you. My friend who prepared the specimens of Gossypium - & whom I requested to prepare them carefully - has not given them the attention which they should have had. They were not well dried & are badly moulded. I concluded to send them, however. But in making your estimate of my present envoi, you can only include such specimens as you find can be sent to Germany. Let me know the deficiency, & I will try to get the remainder next year.

I have sent you some of the common Cyperaceae & Gramineae, because you gave me full licence in these Orders - So in Juncaceae, & Orchideae. A good portion of the Carices I sent, because authenticated by Dewey, & will so far be valuable perhaps.

I have sent such Sagittariae as I have (two of S. radicans) upon which — as upon all the species unnamed or marked doubtful — I shall be glad to have your opinion. Your opinion of the Xyrides will be especially valuable. I find them hard to manage.

I have sent some 30–40 Musci & Hepaticae. If you wish more, I will send others next time.

I received Léveillé's Pamphlet, — & have read it over several times with much interest. But I do not like his System — it will not compare with Fries. He arranges too artificially, more by analogy than affinity.

I have neglected to speak of the little Fungus you sent me in a letter, upon a leaf of Gonolobus from Texas. It is a species of Didymium & probably new; but unfortunately the heads were all ruptured & emptied. Should you meet with it again, please to lay it between some thin folds of raw cotton & then enclose in a fold of soft letter paper. I am anxious to have good specimens of this — & of any thing else in the Mycological line that you may meet with.

I will return the Pamphlet after a while. I want to read it some more yet.

I have not found Sparganium here. — Next year I will endeavor to look more carefully at the Sagittariae, & note the scape. Your directions this year came too late.

Pinus australis or palustris is the famous tree of our Southern coast, which furnishes the Turpentine, pitch, Lumber &c. Hence its being included in this German Work, I suppose. But if confined to *medical* subjects, why are Gossypium & Urtica Whitlowii (an intended substitute for hemp) included?

I will attend to this Pine next season, if you say so: The number of leaves in a sheath is not uniform among the Pines — but generally this species has 3. - The leaves are from 10 — 15 inches long.

Let me hear from you when you have received the Box.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. I have written to Decaisne — but intending the correspondence for Léveillé. I am very anxious to secure his correspondence. Please to mention my name & wishes & address, when you write to Decaisne, for fear my letter has miscarried. My zeal in this department is getting up to fever heat. I am greatly in want of European specimens well determined.

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SOCIETY HILL
JAN
22
S.C.

Dr. Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Missouri.

Sept 27th
Ans Oct 10

Society Hill, S. C. Sept: 15th 1848

Dear Sir,

Your letter of May 1st has lain unanswered to this time, because I had nothing particular to write about.

I now think it proper to advise you that I have on hand the remaining sett of Liquidambar, & am now preparing the rather troublesome specimens of Pinus australis. I regret that the flowers escaped my observation last Spring, until they had got too old & fragile for preſsure. If there is still time, I will try to get them for you next Spring.

I found also that Aristolochia serpentaria grows here - chiefly the narrow-leaved variety - & at a venture I preſsed some 60-70 specimens. These, if you are not supplied, I will send you.

The distinction of Sea Island Cotton - aside from its finer staple - is in its dark or black seed. Hence it is usually called the "Black seed Cotton". When cultivated in the interior, it soon reverts to the common form.

I did not recieve your Appendix to Dr. Wislizenus from the latter gentleman. After getting your letter, I addreſsed Prof: Gray on the subject, who sent me a copy. It is a very interesting & valuable paper.

I shall be glad to get your remarks upon my Sagittariae & Xyrides, when you have examined them. I am greatly pestered with the latter.

I shall probably be ready to send your package in about four weeks; - but shall wait till I hear from you about the Aristolochia.

I shall not have much to add to the above specimens. I have collected almost nothing this year. I shall however send a few probably.

I still retain the "Considerations Mycologiques" of Leveillé. If you do not want it, I should like to keep it some time longer.

The Fungi now engross most of my leisure. It is not probable that I shall collect much more of the Phanerogams except for specific demands. This section of country is pretty well explored, & I am pretty well supplied with the plants of the Atlantic States. Exchanges there are a dead loss. — But in order to obtain from the far West, I will procure for yourself whatever can be had from this quarter, though you are already pretty well supplied.

Hoping an immediate reply, I remain

very respectfully yours

M. A. Curtis

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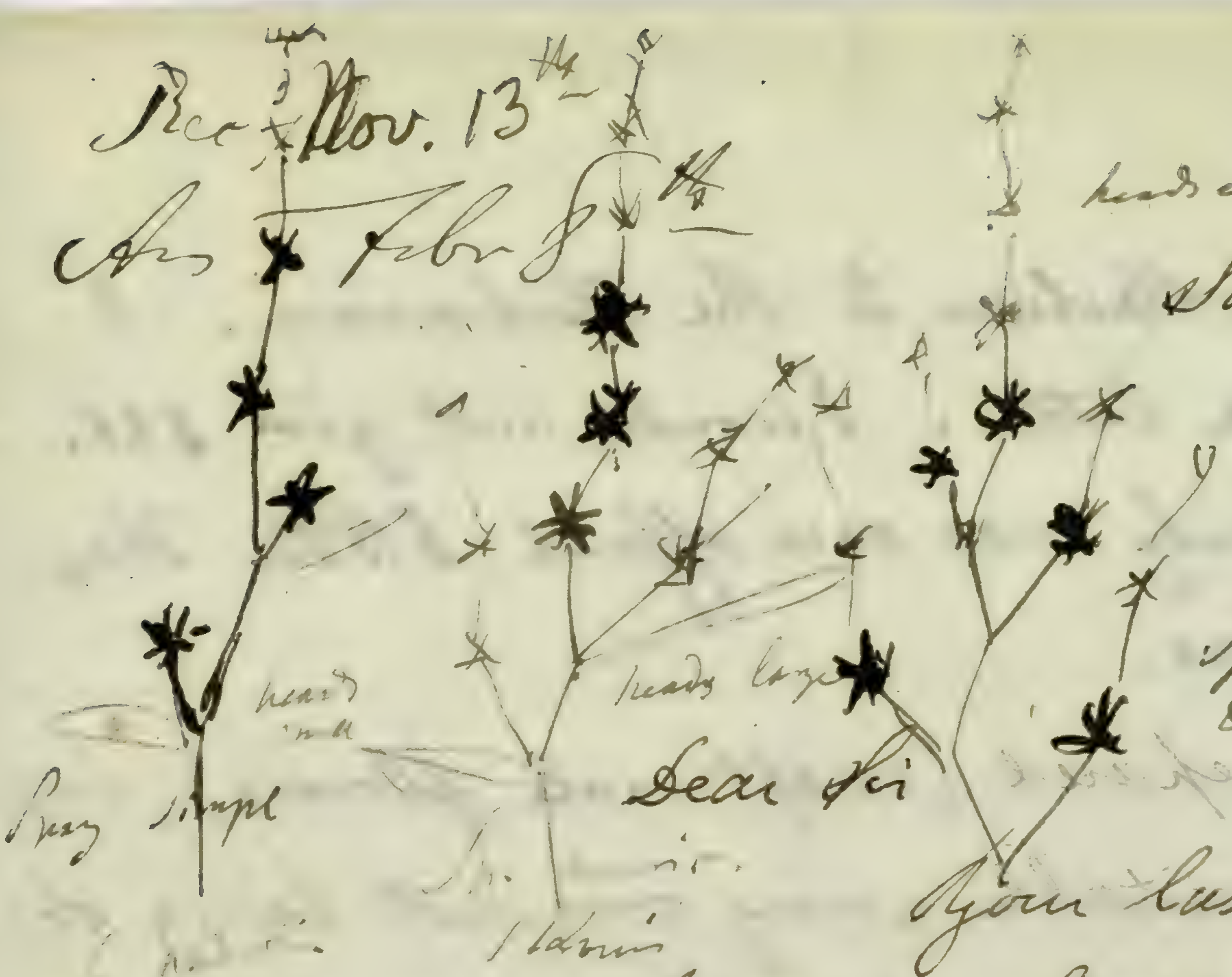
Rec Nov. 13th
Ans Febr 8th



Plantago major?
Sparganium [illegible]
heads as large as in Sp. americanum
shaped as in Sp. simple.
better single & our american
true american?

Society Hill, S. Car: Oct: 25/48

Dear Sir

Your last letter was recd. two or three days ago. I answer by first opportunity for the sake of sending flowers of Podostigma. I hope they will prove serviceable. —— I can send a spec: of Asclepias rubra in the package now preparing for you. A broad leaved form of this is A. acuminata, Pursh.; but I have only a single specimen. —— Asc: tomentosa, Ell: I have never seen, unless it be my A. aceratoides. His A. obovata I only know from a Red River specimen. — Of Acerates paniculatus I have only Western specimens, & have no means of determining whether it is Walter & Pursh's A. viridis.

My notions of Elliott's Euphorbiae are as follows.

Nos 1, 2, (this I have not seen) 3, & 4, good species, & what usually pass under those names.

Nos 5 & 6 = No. 4.

Nos 7 & 8 = E. polygonifolia, Linn: (my sea-shore species.)

Nos 9 & 10 = E. Ipecacuanhae, Linn. (the latter a common erect form.)

Nos 11, 13, 14 = various forms of E. corollata, Linn:

These are views which I have long held, without any recent examination, & never with any careful study. I have no doubt about 9 & 10. I have been familiar with them for fifteen years. — I shall probably be in Charleston early in February, & will try to look over these things in Elliott's Herbarium. But in a former examination of it, I found it to be a wretched collection ~~collection~~, many of the most important species wanting, & the tickets seldom named according to his Flora. The species cannot always be found out even by the synonymy. One of Elliott's daughters has also added some of her own collections to the Herbarium. I could myself, however, detect these latter. I would not give $25. for the Herbarium, & yet the family was once offered $1500. They will not part with it on any terms.

I have Pinus australis now prepared (except male flowers), but was obliged to get old cones — suitable young ones not being obtainable. It has been a serious job. Our River is not yet navigable, & until it rises I cannot send the packet. When it can be forwarded must depend upon the clouds, which have ceased their functions here for several months.

I am obliged to you mentioning me to Decaisne. Have you collected any Fungi? —— Could you get another copy of Léveillé's pamphlet? I shall be very glad to keep the copy you sent, but do not like to deprive you wholly.

Gray's new Flora I liked much, though it does not apply generally here. I wish he could have had a few months more to elaborate it, & it would doubtleſs have been nearer perfection. He was pushed in the preparation. Your criticisms upon it apply to Genera that I have never given much attention to. I suppose the best may sometimes err. Homerus dormitat — I presume there was a temptation to lump species in troublesome Genera.

Sparganium I do not find here. Nor have I any fruit of Sagittaria pusilla. I saw a specimen of this last from Nuttall in Herb: Ell: & it was the same with Ell's Alisma subulata!

Very truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

SOCIETY HIL[illegible]
OCT
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S.C.

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Dr: Geo: Engelmann
St. Louis
Miſsouri.

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MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
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Rec^d Dec 23
Ans Febr 8th

Society Hill, S. Car: Nov: 25/48

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 6th is recieved, & I reply as soon as poſsible, needing a day or two to look over my Euphorbiae. You seem to be doing a large busineſs in this Genus. I shall be glad to get any of your new species, which you have not already sent.

I think you are certainly right about E. hypericif: & maculata of Elliott, being the same.

E. inundata, Torr: I will send you in the parcel on hand, which has not been sent in consequence of continued low water in our river.

E. pubentiſsima, which I take for E. corollata, I will also send _ at least what I take for it.

E. peploides, Nutt: I know nothing about – Nor of E. mercurialina, which does not seem to have been detected since Michaux' time.

E. portulacoides, I suspect will be found to fall under some other species.

E. pilosa is a Siberian species, & I do not believe has ever been found in this country. I am inclined to think that Pursh (the only one who pretends to have seen it) mistook for it E. Darlingtonii, Gray, which extends to the Mts of N. Carolina!

E. graminifolia I cannot make out at all.

E. gracilis, Ell. is probably your E. atrorubens. I do not suppose that Elliott had any reference in his description to the color of the gland;– but he meant that it had no colored appendage – by which he means white. This is all he notices in any species, & never notices the gland.

This species flowers through the summer in sandy woods, & has a long descending root like E. Ipecac: The barren stems have always large obovate leaves – the fertile linear.

I send a fragment of E. paniculata. My specimen is wholly barren. It is a stout species, with copious inflorescence, but otherwise not distinguishable from E. corollata.

E. densiflora I have from Chapman. You speak of it as "entirely smooth", which is not the case in my specimens. I therefore enclose a specimen.

E. Curtisii is what I originally took for E. gracilis, but have long since separated in my Herbarium. I suppose that in sending specimens abroad, I was led astray by the original label among my spare plants. It has little affinity with E. gracilis. — The following note may aid you upon this plant.

[Branching from the base, branches alternate, dichotomous above, smooth. Leaves alternate below, linear-lanceolate, smooth above, sparingly pubescent beneath. Hab: sandy Pine woods of N. C.! & S. C.!] I enclose a ripe fruit of it. This is very different from Elliott's var: angustifolia. I shall send you the latter in the packet.

I may retain your packet a few weeks longer in hope of adding a little to it. I have very little for you, beside the sets for Germany.

Of Pines, which you are anxious for, I have got for you P. taeda, variabilis & serotina. These with P. australis & inops are all that grow about here. The latter you have already.

I shall write again, when the packet has been shipped from Charleston.

Very truly yours –

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. Since writing the above, a letter from England informs me that M. Corda, the celebrated Mycologist, has gone to Texas to superintend the estate of Prince Collorede. His address is stated to be New Brussels; — but I suppose New Braunfels is intended. I am informed that he would be glad to hear from me. As I should certainly be glad to have communication with him, & can doubtless be of advantage to him in furnishing Fungi, I take the liberty of asking the favor of your addressing him for me, & proposing a correspondence. I desire an exchange of Fungi with him — & will send him such American species as I have. I have many new species.

He can address me in Latin or French, if plainly written. German I cannot read with sufficient readiness for comfortable correspondence.

I would not trouble you with this, if I was certain of Corda's address. I presume you may know, from the above data, how to address him, & I am in haste to communicate with him.

SOCIETY HILL
NOV
30

10

Dr. Geo: Engelmann,
St. Louis
Missouri.

Recd Jan 17th
Ans Febr 18

Society Hill, S. Car: Dec: 30th 1848.

Dear Sir,

The Box of plants for you was shipped in the Saranac for N. Orleans, care of Wood & Low, & probably left Charleston on the 27th. I hope you will recieve the packet in good order, & find in it some things acceptable. Freight is paid to N. O.

I write in bed, being confined by a rheumatic attack — hope to be up in a few days.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

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